



## DECEMBER 2010

### ICNC Board News:

- The ICNC bylaws have been amended to read:
- The Hartford Chapter has booked Barry Inman, an epidemiologist from Florida, to speak at the spring seminar. Mark your calendar for April 15<sup>th</sup> at the Marriott in Cromwell. Barry Inman is a well known speaker on Infection Control and Emerging Infectious Diseases.
- If you have something that you would like posted on the ICNC web site, please send to Jasper at [jaspertolarba@infectioncontrolct.org](mailto:jaspertolarba@infectioncontrolct.org). Thank you again, Jasper, for the wonderful web site!

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN INFECTION PREVENTION

### C. difficile Vaccine

Intercell AG has started Phase I clinical trials with a vaccine (IC84) to prevent C. difficile. Phase I trials will be testing healthy adults aged 18-65 years and then healthy elderly above the age of 65 years. Eventually community prophylaxis for the elderly and prophylaxis in at risk hospitalized patients may be possible indications for vaccination.

### Anesthesiologists Need to Wash Their Hands!

A study in the January issue of Anesthesia & Analgesia, the journal of the International Anesthesia Research Society, reports that high rates of transmission of bacteria from anesthesia providers are contributing to surgical site infections. A study at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center showed that bacteria from the hands of the person administering anesthesia was transmitted to the stopcock valves of the IV lines in 11.5% of the procedures. The surgical drape does not protect the patient! Contamination with potential disease-causing bacteria was found on the hands of anesthesia providers in 66% of the cases. Bacteria was transmitted to the intraoperative environment in 89% of procedures.

### 1 in 6 Americans sick from Food Borne Illness Annually

The CDC recently reported that 1 in 6 Americans get sick annually from food borne illness, with Salmonella was the leading cause of estimated hospitalizations and deaths. About 90 percent of estimated illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths were due to seven pathogens: Salmonella, norovirus, Campylobacter, Toxoplasma, E.coli O157, Listeria and Clostridium perfringens. Nearly 60 percent of estimated illnesses, but a much smaller proportion of severe illness, was caused by norovirus. CDC continues to encourage consumers to take an active role in preventing foodborne infection by following safe food-handling and preparation tips of separating meats and produce while preparing foods, cooking meat and poultry to the right temperatures, promptly chilling leftovers, and avoiding unpasteurized milk and cheese and raw oysters. **REMINDER: Food workers ill with undiagnosed diarrhea or vomiting MUST stay out of work for 72 hours after their symptoms ended.**

## INTER-AGENCY TOOL

Encourage your admissions coordinator and hospital to use this inter-agency form to promote improved communication on infections and infection control issues. The use of this tool is being encouraged by the CDC and was shown at the CT DPH HAI Conference.

<http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/toolkits/InterfacilityTransferCommunicationForm11-2010.pdf>

## VACCINATING PREGNANT WOMEN PROTECTS

**INFANTS** against influenza is over 90% effective in preventing their infants from being hospitalized the first 6 months of life according to a Yale study.

**DAMP HANDS SPREAD BACTERIA..** up to 1,000 time more bacteria than dry ones according to Snelling from the University of Bradford, UK.

## RESOURCES

**Local Flu Activity in CT:** <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

**Ct Flu Watch:** <http://www.ct.gov/ctfluwatch/cwp/view.asp?a=2533&q=453532>

## CT DPH Epidemiologist Newsletter

[http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/infectious\\_diseases/ctepinews/vol31no1.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/infectious_diseases/ctepinews/vol31no1.pdf)



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